



that in addition to a requirement for election between the two groups of inventions, the office action of February 3rd also made a restriction requirement among several species of the invention of Group I as follows:

Group Ia      Claims 1-20, directed to a species of REMA objective comprising at least one or two aspheric lens surfaces in each of a condenser portion, intermediate portion and field lens portion.

Group 1b      Claims 21-40 directed to a species of REMA objective comprising 1 to 5 aspheric lens surfaces, a light conducting value of at least 8 mm, and which does not require a condenser portion, an intermediate portion, and a field lens portion.

Group 1c      Claims 43-50 directed to directed to a species of REMA objective comprising first and second partial objectives and a maximum angular deviation between a chief ray and an energy-weighted average ray for all field heights that is smaller than 2 mrad.

Group 1d      Claims 51-53 and 56-59 directed to directed to a species of REMA objective comprising a field lens portion or an intermediate portion with a positive and negative lens containing at least one aspheric surface.

Group 1e      Claims 54-55 directed to a species of REMA objective having an image side working distance of at least 30 mm and that has any structure, i.e., does not require a condenser portion, an intermediate portion and a field lens portion.

Group 1f      Claims 60-62 directed to a species of REMA objective comprising a condenser portion, an intermediate portion and a field lens portion with a beam splitter between the intermediate portion and the field lens portion.

In response the Applicants hereby elect the species of Group 1a (claims 1-20) for the purpose of further prosecution with traverse. Each of the species is an REMA objective, and by searching Group 1a the Examiner must locate lenses with a condenser portion, intermediate portion and field lens portion. Such a search would also be relevant to the other groups as well.

Action on the merits is now respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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